

EMMA T. MARTIN.

JANUARY 9, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. WOOD, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9129.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9129) granting a pension to Emma T. Martin, report thereon as follows:

John C. Martin enlisted May 28, 1861, in Company E, Third New Jersey Volunteer Infantry, was wounded in the head at Gettysburg, July 3, 1863, and was discharged June 23, 1864. He married Jane M. Newman in Pennsylvania, in 1851, and lived with her until 1867, when he disappeared.

In 1868 he was married to claimant, who was then only 15 years of age. He told her that he had been married, but that his wife was dead, and she believed him. In 1871, three years after his marriage to claimant, his first wife died, and he continued to live and cohabit with claimant as his wife, introducing her as such after the bar to marriage with her was removed, for a period of twenty-one years, when he died, never having informed claimant of his deception, of which she never learned until she applied for pension. So far as this claimant was concerned the relation entered into was honorable. She supposed the marriage to be legal when contracted, and continued in that belief until after the death of the soldier, and for twenty-one years after the bar was removed she lived with him as his wife, and was everywhere introduced and recognized as such, and bore him three children.

Soldier was examined most thoroughly June 14, 1892, by the secretary of the Vandalia, Ill., board, who said:

Applicant has been confined to his bed for the past five or six months, and positively needs an assistant every minute of his life. He is mentally and physically gone. His duration of life can surely be numbered by months, and probably by days. In my opinion his condition is the result of the wound on head. * * * Lungs normal.

He died in July, 1892, and your committee believe his death was due to his service, and that the claimant is entitled to a pension as his widow, and the passage of the bill is therefore recommended.

